Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the

application. Please amend the claims as shown below without prejudice.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method to bridge network packet media, comprising:

    receiving a first network packet from a first media channel via a first network interface;

    receiving a second network packet from a second media channel via a second network interface;

    relaying the first network packet and the second network packet to a first shared processing resource via a switch fabric; and

    using an application accessible to the first shared processing resource to bridge the first network packet to the second media channel via the second network interface and the second network packet to the first media channel via the first network interface, by

    translating the first network packet from a first packet format associated with the first media channel to a first intermediate packet having an Ethernet media format;

    translating the second network packet from a second packet format associated with the second media channel to a second intermediate packet having the Ethernet media format;

    translating the first intermediate packet from the Ethernet media format to a first outbound network packet having the second packet format; and

    translating the second intermediate packet from the Ethernet media format to a second outbound network packet having the first packet format.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the first media channel is a different media channel from the second media channel.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the processing resource uses metadata associated with each of the media channels to translate the network packets between the media channels.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of [[1]] 3 wherein the metadata includes Ethernet header data.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the application relays at least one of the network packets to other applications accessible to a second processing resource in order to assist in bridging between the media channels.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the application is a virtual bridge application accessible to the processing resource to bridge between the media channels.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6 wherein the virtual bridge application uses a translation table to bridge between the media channels.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6 wherein the processing resource and the network interfaces are implemented in at least one of a network router, a network switch, and a high-density server.

9 - 13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) A network packet media bridging system, comprising:

    a plurality of network interfaces, wherein each network interface of the plurality of network interfaces accepts network packets from a different media transmission channel; and

    a bridging application that is accessible to a single processing resource for receiving the network packets from the network interfaces and for translating the

network packets between media formats using Ethernet for delivery to a plurality of heterogeneous media transmission channels.

15. (Original) The network packet media bridging system of claim 14, wherein the bridging application is dynamically instantiated and configurable within the processing resource.

16. (Previously Presented) The network packet media bridging system of claim 14, wherein the bridging application accesses metadata associated with the network packets and wherein the metadata is associated with the media formats of the network packets.

17. (Previously Presented) The network packet media bridging system of claim 16, wherein the bridging application uses Ethernet header data included within the metadata to translate the network packets to an Ethernet format before translating the network packets between the media formats.

18. (Original) The network packet media bridging system of claim 14, wherein the bridging application communicates with one or more additional processing resources having one or more additional applications in order to translate the network packets between the media formats.

19. (Original) The network packet media bridging system of claim 14, wherein the media formats include at least one of a Gigabit Ethernet (GigE) format, a Frame Relay (FR) format, a Time-Division Multiplexing (TDM) format, and an Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) format.

20. (Original) The network packet media bridging system of claim 14, wherein the bridging application is a virtual media bridge using Ethernet to translate between the media formats.

21. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

receiving network packets from a plurality of different media channels via respective network interfaces of a network packet media bridging system;

relaying, via a switch fabric, the network packets to shared processing resource operating as a virtual, media agnostic Ethernet bridge; and

the shared processing resource directly or indirectly using Ethernet to translate among heterogeneous media formats associated with the different media channels.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising accessing a translation data structure to translate among media formats associated with the plurality of different media channels.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the translation data structure is configurable to accept a plurality of media format translations from a Graphical User Interface (GUI) application.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the received network packets include Ethernet header data.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, further comprising:

using the Ethernet header data to translate the received network packets from an originally received media format to an intermediate Ethernet media format; and

translating from the intermediate Ethernet media format to an outbound media format.

26. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

a step for receiving a plurality of media transmissions from different media channels via respective network interfaces of a bridging system;

a step for relaying, via a switch fabric, the plurality of media transmissions to a shared processing resource operating as a virtual, media agnostic Ethernet bridge; and

a step for bridging, by the shared processing resource, the plurality of media transmissions within a single bridging domain by directly or indirectly using Ethernet to translate among heterogeneous media formats associated with the different media channels.